in the form of inspection notes. These inspection notes, aparat from idicating the quantities accepted and rejected, also point out the reasons of rejection viz. defects noticed *viz-a-viz* the stipulated requirements.

Based on the nature of defects pointed out by the DGQA (earlier DGI) rectification/modification of the stores, wherever necessary, are carried out by the Ordnance Factories. Action is also taken wherever necessary by the Ordnance Factories for improvement in product design, production processes, quality of materials etc., in consultation with Defence Research and Development Orgn. (DRDO) and/or DGQA.

The ammunition which is found to be defective in accordance with the laid down specification is rejected at the stage of inspection itself. Unless the defects in this rejected ammunition are retcified to make the ammunition conform to the laid down specifications, the rejected ammunition is not supplied to the Indian Army. As such, there is normally no occasion for supply of defective ammunition by the Ordnance Factories to the Indian Army. However, there may be a rare occasion in which the design of the product itself contains certain deficiencies which come to light only after their use over a period of time by the users. In such cases, the deficiencies are carefully studied and rectified. One such instance was in respect of a particular type of ammunition in which defects were first noticed in 1975. Even after repairs were done, defects were again noticed in 1983-84. The investigations into the cause of the defects have revealed that the material used in the design had inherent limitations. The defects are not attributable to any production process, technical failure or quality control. The defects surfaced due to ageing factor entailing long storage. They did not surface at the design stage even after detailed tests for strength and chemical analysis were done including resistance to ultra-violet light and stress factor. No action against any Head(s) of Ordnance Factories has been warranted in this regard.

Indians in Bhutan

1137. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Bhutan have asked all Indians to leave Bhutan as early as possible;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) if so, the response of the Bhutan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Auction of Letters written by Mahatama Gandhi in London

1138. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Sotheby of London are holding an auction of letters written by Mahatma Gandhi to his friends in South Africa; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to get these letters back in view of the importance of these letters and to save documents for history and for future generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government participated in the auction and succeeded in obtaining approximately 80 letters from Gandhiji as well as five boxes containing papers of Henry Pollak relating to Gandhiji and Indian affairs.